

PRESS RELEASE

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KANAWHA COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTS MAN FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD

CHARLESTON, WV – West Virginia Insurance Commissioner, Jane L. Cline, announced today that Brett A. Starr was indicted last month by a Kanawha County Grand Jury on the felony offense of Workers' Compensation Fraud.

Starr, of Harrisville in Ritchie County, is charged with having employees in 2002, but failing to subscribe to the Workers' Compensation Fund as required by law. An employee who was injured on a construction job made a claim for benefits and an investigation followed.

"The Workers" Compensation Fund provides medical, disability and rehabilitation benefits to workers who suffer injury or disease in the course of and resulting from their covered employment" Cline said. "West Virginia employers who fail to subscribe, or fail to make timely and accurate reports and payments may have their business licenses revoked, and may be subject to civil suit, injunction action and criminal prosecution."

Persons who fraudulently secure benefits from the Workers' Compensation Fund, or who file false reports or give false testimony are subject to criminal prosecution. Employers may also be prosecuted for failure to make timely and accurate reports and

payments. Penalties include fines of up to ten thousand dollars, and/or imprisonment for up to ten years, depending on the charge.

Anyone with information relating to a suspected case of Workers' Compensation fraud is urged to call, toll-free, 1-888-372-8392.